



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS Release

9800 Goethe Road Sacramento, California 95827
Phone: 916.854.3304 Fax: 916.854.3630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Major Jon Siepmann – 916-854-3304

September 12, 2005
Release # 09-09-05

New Communication Technology Aids in Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A vital element in relief and recovery efforts is being solely implemented by the California Army and Air National Guard in the gulf port regions.

The Golden State rolled out its new technological device: The Incident Commander's Command, Control and Communications Unit (IC4U). This state of the art system, built into a 6-foot-by-6-foot metallic frame, has been California's key source of communication in the effected areas. It features a satellite-capability link where information is exchanged by electronic mail, phone, radio, fax and even television.

The system was initially tested in May 2004 for the US Olympic Trials in Sacramento. The Joint Task Force California has been utilizing the IC4U to its full capacity in the gulf region, which marks the first field usage of the IC4U in a military capacity for the California National Guard.

"We were able to coordinate our operation the minute we got here. Let's not forget there was no means of communication. But once that got off the plane, we were talking to Sacramento. Without that, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our mission," said Colonel Scott Johnson, JTF California commander."

The IC4U is highly mobile. It sits on a Humvee and can be driven through harsh terrain. Four bolts secure it to the vehicle, making removal easy and lifted by helicopter or carried onto a boat and dropped onto a building or mountain top. The unit was designed to fit onto the back of a commercial pickup truck.

With satellite capability, the IC4U can stream 240 kilobytes of high-quality video to anywhere in the continental United States with only a one- to five-second delay. It features a satellite bandwidth of 512 kilobyte uplink and 1.5 megabyte downlink. It provides internet capabilities. It is also equipped with CB and HAM radio-type communication devices. Atop the frame sits a 360-degree camera, where images can be viewed live on the internet or television. Inside, a computer, printer and fax machine sit near a microwave and refrigerator.

Five IC4Us are currently being utilized in Hurricane Katrina's recovery effort. Two IC4U's are here in Sacramento in case of any local or state emergency.

To view other California National Guard media releases please go to
<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/CAAG-MS>.